

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 2, 2019, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Laurie Colgan and Christopher Martin; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitor: Rich Phillips

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: Route 2, Wedding at Covered Bridge, New Discovery Cemetery, Better Backroads

Public Comment: none

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of the May 7, and June 21 meetings as drafted, and June 25 meeting with one minor change

Covered Bridge: Rich Phillips asked the Selectboard to consider pinning the bridge to the abutments. The water was 2' deep inside the bridge in 2011, and he worries that with increasing floods, the bridge may be lost. He will get some estimates for costs and methods.

Rich P. reported that the wetland crossing is almost finished but there is a little bit more work to do. He needs volunteers to help with the remaining work.

The Selectboard received a request from Shawn Potter to hold a wedding ceremony at the bridge on July 21st. The Board granted permission, provided that the park remains open during the day. Mr. Potter is aware of the policy prohibiting smoking and alcohol on town properties.

Stranahan Town Forest: Rich P. reported that the Thompson Road is a mess, and the drainage needs work. He feels that ditches need to be built. There is erosion happening near the old foundation. The only solution is a stone-lined ditch. He feels that stone from the property could be used. He would like to see more people able to use the property but access is limited right now due to the drainage issues. The committee is exploring grants to do a trail inventory. Rich P. asked whether the Selectboard would approve of allowing one of the road crew members do the work with town equipment, as long as it doesn't interfere with their regular work. The Board agreed, as long as the labor costs are paid out of the Stranahan fund.

Model Communities Program: Rich P. reported that 4 task forces have been formed to continue the work. One of the task forces is working on weatherization and energy improvements, one is working on village revitalization and Route 2 improvements, one is working on transportation alternatives, and one is looking at improving the local farm/food system.

Cows: Rich P. reported that there were cows on his lawn recently. Chris stated that they belong to Phil Leibold. They were at Albert St. Cyr's property yesterday. Chris noted that there are statutes in Title 20 relating to bulls. He noted that the animal that has been out on the covered bridge property is a bull. The Town will consider how to declare them a public nuisance.

Route 2: Fire Chief Will Schwarz has asked the Selectboard to sign a letter that he is drafting, detailing the problems that are caused by the poor condition of Route 2. He is concerned about safety issues, especially in light of recent incidents involving several cars with flat tires blocking the road.

Listers: Tabled until the next meeting.

Tax Rate: The Selectboard set the town tax rate at .7089 and the local agreement rate at .0061. They set the penalty for late-filed homestead at 5%. The State has set the homestead tax rate at 1.9275 and the non-residential rate at 1.7916.

Herbicide: The Selectboard has received inquiries about the ballfield fence. It appears that the grass along the fence was sprayed with an herbicide. The Board drafted a letter to the lawn mowing service, asking them not to spray and to let the Selectboard know what was sprayed.

Roads: Alan May from the Better Backroads Program offered to come and talk to the Board and/or Road Crew to go over options for tracking road maintenance.

Bunker Hill Circle: Grenier Engineering is hoping to have a plan by next week.

New Discovery Cemetery: Bobbi will ask the county forester whether he can look at the trees in the cemetery to see if they should be taken down.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the July 2, 2019 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
